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Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

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Eight pages

Paula Jones suit dismissed

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A federal judge threw out Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton Wednesday, abruptly calling off an often unseemly four-year legal struggle that opened the president's private life to unprecedented public scrutiny and led to an ongoing independent counsel investigation.

In a ruling that shocked both sides, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright rejected all of Jones' claims stemming from her 1991 encounter with Clinton in a hotel suite. Even if Clinton did make a crude proposition, the judge concluded that it would not constitute sexual assault and that there was no proof Jones was emotionally afflicted or punished in the workplace for rebuffing him. "There are no genuine issues for trial in this case," she wrote.

The White House and its allies immediately rejoiced in what they saw as a momentous turning point, not only for the president's legal and political prospects but also for his chances of shaping a fa-

Clinton, Democrats still face issues posed by case

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Paula Corbin Jones' sexual harassment case may have disappeared, at least for now, but the political chaos it helped spawn will not go away as swiftly.

With other sex-related allegations against President Clinton still under investigation by Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr, the White House and Democrats have not yet escaped the serious character issues posed by the Jones case.

And Republicans now find themselves even more confused over what to do about a subject that many Americans seem to find utterly repellent.

"This will just reinforce the public's desire to see this stuff go away," said

Analysis

Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. "There was already a public backlash against Starr's investigation, and I would expect that backlash to intensify."

Presidential aides crowded over the sudden end of an embarrassing spectacle that hung over Clinton for months, forced him to answer questions about his sex life, and gave rise to the unsettled allegations that he urged former White House intern Monica Lewinsky to lie about their relationship.

"The president has been vindicated," said Ann Lewis, the White House director of communications.

avorable historical legacy. The decision reached Clinton in Dakar, Senegal, and he beat

an African drum in celebration. "The president is pleased to receive the vindication that

he's been waiting a long time for," said an understated White House press secretary Michael McCurry.

But the jubilation was tempered by recognition of the damage already wrought and the fact that the case is not completely over.

Jones' lawyers immediately signaled that they will appeal the dismissal, meaning months of additional legal maneuvering.

And independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr said there would be "no effect" on his investigation — stemming from the Jones case — into whether Clinton or his friends tried to tamper with witnesses, including Monica S. Lewinsky, the former White House intern who was caught on tape saying the president wanted her to lie to Jones's lawyers about having an affair.

Yet some legal experts said Starr may have a more difficult time pursuing a charge that Clinton perjured himself in his own Jones deposition.

Wright's ruling stunned those involved in the case.

Related stories, Page 2

Pentagon report seeks more base closings

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Stepping up his campaign for more military base closures, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen plans to present a report to Congress Thursday that shows the Pentagon has saved more money on closings so far than previously estimated, but needs to save billions more to finance new equipment.

The Pentagon report argues that there continue to be significantly more bases

than are required to support a shrunken military, despite four previous rounds of reductions since 1988 that have shut 97 of the 495 major bases in the United States and consolidated hundreds of others. Cohen is asking Congress to authorize two more rounds of closures, which the report says could generate annual savings of \$3 billion, on top of the \$5.6 billion from earlier shutdowns. The study estimates that the Pentagon has about 23

percent excess base capacity. Providing examples of how cuts in personnel and equipment are far outstripping reductions in military facilities, the report notes that while the number of ships is due to drop by 46 percent between 1989 and 2003, berthing space will decline by only 18 percent. Similarly, the number of Army soldiers is slated to fall 43 percent in the same period, compared with only a 7 percent planned cut in classroom space.

A bad day for critics of president

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Wednesday was no day at the beach for the enemies of President Clinton.

Unless, of course, we're talking about Omaha Beach.

The stunning ruling of U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright, dismissing plaintiff Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton, landed with all the force of an exploding artillery shell, leaving Clinton's antagonists shocked and dazed.

From archenemy Cliff Jackson — the Arkansas lawyer who orchestrated Jones's first news conference at a 1994 conclave of conservative activists — to rank-and-file Clinton haters venting their spleens on the World Wide Web, the reaction was one of confusion abroad in the land.

Jackson, for one, sounded a tad subdued.

"Do I have any regrets from having her (Jones) at the press conference?" he mused in a telephone interview.

"I have mixed feelings about the whole thing. Although I've been portrayed as a Clinton archenemy and nemesis, I, like the rest of the American people, have mixed feelings about this man ... I'm not surprised at the ruling. He has a way of dodging the consequences of his actions."

Jones' case judge is businesslike

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The judge who dismissed a sexual harassment lawsuit Wednesday against President Clinton once took a law school class under his tutelage and then campaigned against him in his first political race.

It goes to show that when dealing with law and politics, Susan Webber Wright is all business, say her friends and legal associates.

"She's very businesslike. She follows the rules. She follows the law," said U.S. Attorney Paula Casey, a Clinton appointee who has known Wright for nearly 20 years and once taught with her at

Spotlight on Starr after Jones suit is tossed out

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — And now there is one.

A federal judge's dismissal of the Paula Corbin Jones sexual harassment lawsuit focuses the spotlight exclusively on the outcome of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's investigation of President Clinton's dealings with two former White House aides.

Legal experts said Wednesday that the dismissal of the Jones lawsuit strengthens the White House's public-relations footing, as aides to the president escalate attacks on the scope and pace of Starr's inquiry.

But the fallout is not expected to deter Starr from presenting to Congress allegations of presidential wrongdoing. Nor does the dismissal of the Jones case prevent him from filing criminal charges against former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky or others.

"Starr can probably get around any problem that this decision poses," said former Deputy Attorney General Philip B. Heymann, now a professor at Harvard Law School.

Still, any case Starr would make against the president would play out not in a court of law, but in the Congress, where public opinion holds great sway.

"I think this puts a lot of pressure

on Starr to wrap this up," said Harold M. Ickes, the former deputy White House chief of staff who is among a handful of lawyers advising Clinton. "(Act) or get off the pot."

Said another critic of Starr, author and former Los Angeles County prosecutor Vincent P. Bugliosi: "I think psychologically, it's going to take a little wind out of his sails. Legally, I don't think it's going to deter him."

Starr, a former solicitor general and U.S. appeals court justice, was appointed as independent counsel in August 1994 to investigate matters connected to the Clintons' investment in an Ozarks land development called Whitewater. The venture was launched with financing from a federally insured savings and loan that later failed at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$50 million.

Starr's office in May 1996 won fraud-related convictions against the Clintons' two Whitewater investment partners, James and Susan McDougal. The independent counsel has drawn intense criticism, however, for the duration and broadened scope of his investigation. Starr decided to reopen an investigation of the death by suicide of former White House lawyer Vincent Foster. Starr's predecessor, Special Counsel Robert B. Fiske Jr., had completed the original probe of Foster's death in June 1994.

Stripes

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Two dead in Virginia tornado

COATESVILLE, Va. (AP) — A tornado that tore through a rural community Wednesday night destroyed a home, killing a woman and her 13-week-old son.

Moments before the twister hit, the woman's husband ran to the nearby house of a relative to warn of the approaching storm. In the few minutes he was gone, the tornado struck his home — leaving only the brick foundation and front steps.

"When he came back out, this is what he saw," said Hanover County Fire Chief Mike Harman Sr.

The area inside the two-story house's foundation was swept bare, with the front steps and wrought-iron railing leading up to nothing. Scat-

tered in a wooded thicket to the northwest were what had been inside — a baby dressing drawer, a sofa, a wheelbarrow. A tablecloth was left hanging from a tree.

The relative's house, about 80 yards away, was left untouched.

The twister came out of a line of severe thunderstorms that crossed central and northern Virginia, damaging homes, knocking down dozens of trees and leaving thousands of people without power.

The tornado cut a narrow, serpentine path about a mile long, mostly through trees. Lillie Ford said she saw it drop down from the sky.

"You could see dark clouds, and they started swirling around and

around real fast," she said.

Hanover County Sheriff V. Stuart Cook identified the victims as Sheila Giles, 39, and her son Jeremiah.

Coatesville is about 25 miles north of Richmond. Rescue personnel had to cut through trees blocking area roads to reach the Giles home. One injury was reported in the town of Carmel Church in neighboring Caroline County. A woman who received cuts and scratches was treated by firefighters at the scene. Authorities were still trying to determine the extent of damage in the remote, thickly wooded region. "We're trying to get a helicopter to check it out now," said Roger Raines, director of fire and rescue for Caroline County.

Bad report card spurs boy to shoot into middle school

By Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
OAKFIELD, Wis. — A 14-year-old boy who admitted firing five shots into his middle school because of a bad report card was carrying 800 rounds of ammunition when he was arrested shortly after the incident, officials said Wednesday.

During an emotional hearing Wednesday, a Fond du Lac County judge ordered the boy held in secure detention for 48 hours until the district attorney files a juvenile delinquency petition

charging him with first-degree reckless endangerment.

District Attorney Tom Storm said he has not decided whether he will try to waive the boy into adult court.

One day after gunshots shattered the day at Oakfield Middle School, principal Paul Dix shook his head when told about the 800 bullets.

The school has 110 students. No one was hurt in Tuesday's shooting, though classes were in session in rooms on either side of

the glass doors that were shot out.

During the brief juvenile detention hearing, the boy's father testified that his son had never been in trouble before. His son has two paper routes and works at his grandparents' business.

The boy, dressed in jail-issued blue pants and shirt, showed no emotion and said nothing during the hearing.

"He never leaves home. He's a good boy," the father said before covering his face with his hand.

4 dead, 1 hurt in possible shooting spree

ODON, Ind. (AP) — Authorities found four people dead and one injured Wednesday in what police say may be a two-state shooting spree.

Police said three victims lived within 15 miles of each other in a rural southwest Indiana county that had not seen a slaying in more than nine years.

A few hours after police found the third Indiana shooting victim, a fourth body turned up near Albion, Ill., about 60 miles

west of Daviess County. Another person in Albion was found critically injured and taken to an Evansville, Ind., hospital with a gunshot wound to the neck.

Deputies in Illinois' Edwards County believe all five shootings were related because they found a car stolen from one of the Indiana victims in an Albion cemetery. Officials were searching for two male suspects they believe fled on foot or stole another car.

Military plane thieves given prison terms

TUCSON, Arizona (AP) — A judge sentenced two men to prison terms for conspiring to steal 28 surplus military planes that the U.S. government said were worth more than \$20 million.

U.S. District Judge William Browning on Wednesday rejected a defense claim that the government withheld information about alleged CIA ties to a shady exchange program for surplus military planes.

Browning also rejected motions for acquittal or for a new trial based on contentions that the court or prosecution committed a series of errors in its prosecution of Roy D. Reagan and Fred A. Fuchs.

He sentenced Reagan to 2 1/2 years in prison and Fuchs to 2 years for conspiring to steal 28 surplus military aircraft that were swapped for far less valuable historic planes. A jury convicted the two last fall.

The program devised by Reagan, an aviation broker from Medford, Ore., and Fuchs, retired assistant director of aviation for the Forest Service from Los Lunas, New Mexico sought to funnel retired aircraft to private companies.

Women heart patients get short shrift

ATLANTA (AP) — Women typically take an hour longer to get to the hospital when they have a heart attack and are treated less urgently once they arrive, explaining in part why they are more likely to die.

Doctors have long noticed that heart attacks are more likely to be fatal in women than in men, but they have had trouble sorting out how much of this could be explained solely by the severity of their illnesses.

Two large new studies suggest that women's worse medical conditions clearly do play a big part.

However, the researchers also found small but clear differences between the sexes in the way both doctors and victims react to heart attacks, which are the No. 1 killer of men and women alike.

One reason women take longer to get to the hospital is that they are less likely than men to suffer crushing chest pain, the hallmark sign of a

heart attack. Instead, they may have more ambiguous symptoms, such as shortness of breath, an ache in the neck or jaw or something that feels like gas pains. One of the researchers, Dr. Sandra Gan of Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, also speculated that doctors may treat women less aggressively simply because they tend to be older and sicker. And she said non-heart specialists, in particular, may be less likely to recognize and treat heart attacks in women.

The findings, based on large national databases, were presented Wednesday at a meeting in Atlanta of the American College of Cardiology.

Gan described an analysis of gender differences in the care of 180,083 elderly Medicare patients in 1994 and 1995, and Dr. John Canto of the University of Alabama in Birmingham outlined findings from 327,040 men and women of all ages treated at about 1,500 U.S. hospitals from 1994 to 1996.

Coffee mugs can have real dregs, study shows

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Here's a real jolt for coffee drinkers: Researchers say there's a good chance that mugs kept at the office are crawling with countless critters, some harmless and some not.

Tiny troublemakers — including scary stuff like *E. coli* — are having population booms because people don't carefully wash out their cups or disinfect sinks and preparation areas in most offices.

"Ewww! That's yucky!" said Gabriela Rico, a spokeswoman at the Pima County Juvenile Court Center, who identified herself as a coffee drinker. After learning about tests conducted by Charles Gerba and Ralph Meer of the University of Arizona, she had a change of heart.

"I take that back," Rico said. "I'm not a coffee drinker any more."

In the Tucson city manager's office,

secretary Diane Villegas, another coffee drinker, said Monday that she knew about the study.

"Let's put it this way: this morning I used a paper cup," she said.

Gerba and Meer tested dishes, sinks, cups, dishrags, sponges, counters and spoons in at least a dozen offices in Tucson two years ago, publishing their results in a journal on dairy food and sanitation.

They tested from three to 12 cups per office, transferring samples taken with cotton swabs to a liquid medium and then to petri dishes. They tested the liquid squeezed from sponges and rags.

"The premise was that there's usually coffee and food preparation areas in offices, and usually these areas are not sanitary," Gerba said.

The leading culprits are sponges and rags.

DOD hacker is obsessed with Internet

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ending his silence, a teen-age hacker who broke into Pentagon computers said Wednesday that he got his first computer at age 6, used to spend 15 hours a day on the Internet and couldn't read words with more than four letters.

Ehud Tenenbaum, who is to be drafted into the Israeli army Sunday, said he wants to serve in the combat Givati brigade but would also be happy with an assignment utilizing his now notorious computer talents.

"I feel a sort of high from the attention and care surrounding me," the 18-year-old, who calls himself "The Analyzer," told the Yediot Achronot daily in an exclusive interview.

"But to do it all over again? It's hard to say, but I imagine I would not go into the Pentagon site. When I went there, I just didn't know what I had gotten into."

Tenenbaum has been questioned by Israeli police but not charged.

Although he is still under investigation, last week he was released from house arrest. He celebrated with friends at a disco near his hometown of Hod Hasharon north of Tel Aviv, where the disc jockey told partygoers "The Analyzer" had done their town proud.

Tenenbaum told Yediot he was different from other boys because of his dyslexia.

Highway bill heads to negotiations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House celebrated passage of a \$217 billion highway spending bill with the sobering reminder that time was running out to work out complex differences with the Senate-passed version.

In its legislative finale before taking off for a two-week vacation, the House approved the six-year highway and mass transit bill by a decisive 337-80 vote Wednesday.

The lopsided margin reflected a hugely popular measure that would bring road-building projects into

almost every congressional district and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

But there also was lingering unhappiness among conservatives about the bill's hefty price tag, which exceeded caps set in last year's balanced budget agreement.

Gun ruling may upgrade discharge

By Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Can an unloaded gun be considered “dangerous” if a potential victim doesn’t know it’s empty?

The answer is no, according to a recent 4-1 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

As a result, a bad-conduct discharge given to former Marine Cpl. Tyrone Davis for his actions in a 1994 hazing incident may be changed to a less punitive general discharge.

Davis was one of about 10 drunken Marines who took part in a hazing ritual known as a “blanket party” or a “fumble” during a training exercise four years ago at the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center in California.

The illegal ritual, similar to an incident portrayed in the 1992 Tom Cruise-Jack Nicholson movie *A Few Good Men*, is meant to chastise and censure Marines who don’t live up to the expectations of their colleagues.

In this incident, the group repeatedly grabbed, kicked and hit the unidentified victim. Davis then pointed a Beretta pistol at the victim’s head and shouted, “I ought to cap you now.”

The victim, believing Davis was about to shoot him, feared for his life, according to court documents.

Davis was convicted of conspiracy to commit assault and battery, violation of a general lawful order, communication of a threat and assault with a dangerous weapon.

He received a bad-conduct discharge, demotion to E-1, 12 months in jail and a fine of \$250 a month during that period.

Davis’ appeals focused on the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, the most serious charge.

The appeals court noted that in some civilian jurisdictions, a weapon is considered dangerous based not on whether it is loaded, but on the apprehension felt by the victim.

It’s obvious that when a weapon is pointed at someone, “that person normally will fear death or grievous bodily harm,” wrote Judge Susan Crawford.

Kosovo conflict affects U.S. Macedonia mission

By Washington Post

OBSERVATION POST 54, Macedonia — When Yugoslav government forces assaulted ethnic Albanian villages in Kosovo several weeks ago and frightened 13,000 people into fleeing their homes, the action attracted rapt interest among the nearly two dozen U.S. troops manning this remote hilltop observation post on Macedonia’s northern border with Yugoslavia.

Normally their daily routine is so boring that they greet rare visitors with apologies about the lack of excitement. But there are new concerns that if the simmering ethnic tensions in Kosovo come to a full boil in the months ahead, the quiet region northwest of this post might be flooded with refugees or even additional Yugoslav forces, putting added strains on the 350 Americans deployed near the border.

The lightly armed U.S. force is part of a 750-person United Nations contingent sent here six years ago to help preserve the stability of this ethnical-

ly diverse former Yugoslav republic.

The initial goal was to deter undue political pressure or outright intervention by the Yugoslav government and help tamp down internal tensions between a majority population of Slavic descent and a minority of ethnic Albanians.

But the mounting frictions in Kosovo are rapidly becoming the U.N. force’s principal focus, and the local U.S. commander has shifted some troops to begin staffing a remote observation post within direct sight of Kosovo, a province of Serbia, Yugoslavia’s largest republic.

A similar battalion from four Scandinavian nations has stepped up daily patrols along the border to the west of here.

In response to the new tensions, the United States and its European allies have begun discussing whether to enlarge this military force after its U.N. mandate expires in September and alter its operation to allow more aggressive patrolling, according to a senior U.S. official in Washington.

Arms embargo put on Yugoslavia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Yugoslavia denounced a decision to impose an arms embargo on Belgrade, accusing the resolution’s supporters of trying to break up the country by encouraging separatists in restive Kosovo province.

The U.N. Security Council imposed the embargo Tuesday to pressure

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic into concessions aimed at “substantial autonomy” for the majority Albanian population in Kosovo. The embargo is believed to be largely symbolic, since both the Yugoslav government and Albanian militants already are well-armed.

China abstained in the

vote, saying the crisis was an internal Yugoslav matter. Although Russia voted for the embargo, acting Russian Ambassador Yuriy Fedotov said Moscow did not consider unrest in Kosovo a threat to international security — the traditional justification for the council to become involved in an internal dispute.

Papon convicted of crimes against humanity

BORDEAUX, France (AP) — Maurice Papon, a former official of the pro-Nazi Vichy regime who later rose to be a French Cabinet minister, was convicted Thursday of complicity in crimes against humanity for arresting and deporting Jews during World War II.

Wearing a dark, pin-striped suit, Papon, 87, sat very still, leaning his head on his

left arm during the reading of the verdict, which took several minutes. He showed no outward emotion when the conviction was announced.

The jury of nine civilians and three judges sentenced Papon to 10 years in prison, less than 20 years the state prosecutor had asked for. He was also deprived of his civic rights for 10 years.

New York says no way to huge 'Seinfeld' bash

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — It seems the show about nothing would create too much confusion for Times Square.

The city has turned down a request from a *Seinfeld* sponsor to host a private bash in the heart of the theater district the night of the last episode in May.

"It would have created traffic problems of monumental proportions at the height of rush hour in one of the heaviest traveled areas of the city," said

Colleen Roche, a spokeswoman for New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Fuji Photo Film wanted to stage a star-studded bash and a massive private viewing of the May 14 show on the giant video screen overlooking Times Square.

Schott hurts hip

CINCINNATI — Marge Schott injured her hip when she fell in her drive-way hours after the Reds lost their season opener.

Schott, 69, was hospitalized, but officials at the hospital and for the baseball team refused to release details, saying only the injury wasn't life threatening.

"It had been raining, it was slippery," said fire Lt. Dean Winkelman.

Schott, owner of the Reds, has been banned from running the baseball team through this season for offensive remarks she made about minorities in 1996.

**Faces
'n'
places**

Shakur estate sued

LOS ANGELES — A jewelry store is suing Tupac Shakur's estate, alleging the rapper custom-ordered \$83,000 worth of jewelry and died before he paid.

R&S Antiques Inc. in Beverly Hills said Shakur bought a diamond encrusted white gold bracelet for \$38,000 and a gold chain to go with a Medusa medalion designed by the late Gianni Versace for \$45,000.

Shakur died in 1996 in a drive-by shooting and the custom-ordered jewelry was stored in a safe.

The Superior Court lawsuit filed Tuesday seeks more than \$93,000 for the jewelry and interest accrued.

Attorney Richard S. Fischbein, an administrator of Shakur's estate, did not immediately return a telephone call Wednesday.

Turner donates buffalo

BOULDER, Colo. — The death of Ralphie III stirred Ted Turner, bison man, to action.

Turner gave the University of Colorado's football team a yearling buffalo after learning of the death of their bison mascot in a magazine.

The new job will mean a name change for the young animal, dubbed "Rowdy" by cowboys on Turner's ranch in Montana.

He'll be called Ralphie IV at the school.

He will make his debut in September at a game with Colorado State.

Stern show on CBS to face 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP) — The self-proclaimed "King of All Media" is taking on *Saturday Night Live*.

Raunchy radio host Howard Stern will launch an hour-long television show on 12 CBS-owned television stations in August, directly competing with NBC's *Saturday Night Live* comedy institution at 11:30.

"*Saturday Night Live* has ceased being funny ... and maybe it's time to have an alternative," Stern said at a news conference today.

The Howard Stern Show will be taped and be similar to the show he produces for E! Entertainment Television, which Stern will continue. Both shows are set in the radio studio where he broadcasts his nationally syndicated show.

Stern said he won't have to clean up his act for broadcast on CBS stations.

"CBS is the Tiffany Network but I sat down and thought about it, and you know what, Tiffany is a stripper's name," Stern said. "Television is ready for someone like me."

The show is not immediately being offered to the more than 200 CBS affiliates, some of which may be reluctant to take on Stern's humor.

Diana letters handed to palace after sale try

LONDON (AP) — Private letters written by Princess Diana to her lover James Hewitt have been handed to Kensington Palace after a woman tried to sell them to a tabloid newspaper, press reports said Thursday.

Hewitt's fiancée, Anna Ferretti, tried to sell 62 handwritten letters to editors of the *Mirror* for 150,000 pounds (dlrs 250,000), saying she wanted to sell them before Hewitt did, the newspaper reported.

The letters had been taken from a safe at Hewitt's home Wednesday.

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

April 2, 1988 — The FBI and Italian authorities cracked a major Sicilian Mafia drug ring.

20 YEARS AGO

April 2, 1978 — President Carter criticized military interference in Africa by outside nations, notably Cuba.

30 YEARS AGO

April 2, 1968 — President Johnson announced he would not seek another term as president.

40 YEARS AGO

April 2, 1958 — The Cuban congress authorized President Fulgencio Batista to declare a state of emergency to crush the rising rebellion.

50 YEARS AGO

April 2, 1948 — The Russians blocked supplies being shipped for Berlin's 25,000 Allied nationals.

Cubs end losing streak at one

By Associated Press

Who says winning games in April isn't important?

Certainly not the Chicago Cubs.

The Cubs, who set a National League record by losing their first 14 games in '97, improved to 1-1 Wednesday night with a 10-3 victory over the Florida Marlins.

"I've never been on a team where winning the second game of the season meant so much," catcher Scott Servais said. "I guess it's part of being a Cub."

Mark Clark struck out 11 and Kevin Orie drove in four runs, both career-highs, as the Cubs moved nearly three weeks ahead of last year's pace.

Orie drove in runs with a single in the first, a double in the third, a solo homer

off the left-field foul pole in the fifth and a sacrifice fly in the ninth.

Teammate Sammy Sosa added an RBI double in the first and a run-scoring single in the third. Servais doubled home two runs in the ninth and Mickey Morandini added a two-run single.

"I expect this to be a fun year," Servais said. "We're going to struggle, but we're also going to have nights like tonight."

In other NL games, it was Colorado 6, Arizona 0; Houston 7, San Francisco 6; San Diego 10, Cincinnati 9; and Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 0.

The Cubs waited until April 20 to win a game last season, and they were remind-

ed of the slow start after losing to the Marlins 11-6 on Tuesday.

"I'm glad we solved that one right off the bat," Clark said.

Clark, who came to the Cubs in August, allowed four hits in seven innings before leaving with a 5-1 lead.

"He looked like Greg Maddux for seven innings," said Marlins rookie Josh Booty, who struck out twice against Clark.

The right-hander's 11 strikeouts were the most by a Cubs pitcher since Kevin Foster had 13 on Sept. 27, 1995, against St. Louis. Clark's previous career high was 10 strikeouts on Aug. 28 last year against Florida.

Florida's 21-year-old Felix Heredia made his first major league start.

Red Sox get shutout pitching from Martinez

By Associated Press

Pedro Martinez and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays are all even. One AL win apiece.

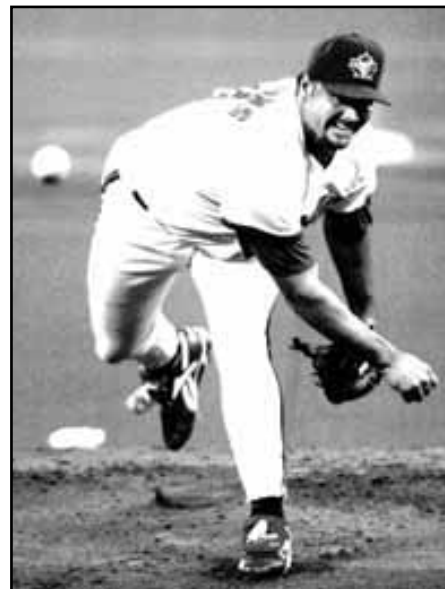
Martinez, baseball's \$75 million man, made a marvelous debut Wednesday night for Boston. The 1997 NL Cy Young winner struck out 11 and allowed just three hits in seven innings, leading the Red Sox over the Oakland Athletics 2-0.

"Of course, it's special to win on opening day," Martinez said. "It gets the first one out of the way and gets you ready to go. It gives you confidence. It was a pleasure for me to give the Red Sox an outing like this. I hope it's one of many."

The expansion Devil Rays earned their first victory ever, defeating the Detroit Tigers 11-8. Tampa Bay bounced back from its opening-day defeat and rewarded manager Larry Rothschild with a beer shower, rather than champagne.

"It didn't matter," he said. "It still felt good."

In other AL games, Anaheim defeated New York 4-1, Cleveland downed Seattle 9-7, Baltimore beat Kansas City 10-1 and Toronto topped Minnesota 3-2.



AP

Toronto's Roger Clemens fires a pitch to the plate.

Martinez, who signed a six-year contract after being traded from Montreal to Boston, faced his biggest jam in his final inning.

After giving up only one hit through six innings, he ran into trouble in the seventh when Matt Stairs and Jason Giambi singled. But after Scott Spiezio's sacrifice, Martinez struck out rookie A.J. Hinch and Jason McDonald.

"He's tough. He's worth the money," said Spiezio, who struck out twice.

"We had never really seen him before," Spiezio said.

Committed to Piazza, L.A. says

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A day after Mike Piazza expressed disappointment concerning the lack of progress on the contract extension he wants, the Los Angeles Dodgers issued a statement saying they remain committed to signing him.

Piazza, 29, is in the final year of a two-year, \$15 million contract that pays him \$8 million this season, after which he will be eligible for free agency for the first time.

"I'm not going to lie and say I'm not concerned about this, that I'm not confused and disappointed by the whole thing, because I am," Piazza told the Los Angeles Times in St. Louis on Tuesday after the Dodgers lost to the Cardinals 6-0 in their season opener.

"I'm mad that this has dragged into the season, and that it now has the potential to become a distraction," he said.

"I'm not going to use this as an excuse if things aren't going well, because that wouldn't be fair to the fans, my teammates or (team management).

Jordan mum on the NBA's big question

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan has been advised to stop discussing his uncertain future.

He spoke for 20 minutes Tuesday night and said nary a word about it. That allowed someone else to offer an explanation on the biggest unanswered question in the NBA.

"He's not sure what's he's going to do," teammate Steve Kerr said.

There you have it. After months of debate and posturing, Jordan's future remains completely up in the Air.

"I'm sure that there was an agenda for Michael — trying to keep Phil (Jackson, the coach) around," Kerr said. "And obviously that doesn't look like it's going to work. He's frustrated. He probably has mixed emotions. He still might want to play without Phil, but he might not want to say that right now."

Jordan has pledged to retire after this season if management sticks to its plan to replace Jackson.

Nevertheless, Jordan has been bombarded with questions about his future every time the Bulls go on the road. Even at home, too, after practices, after games, when he walks into the arena.

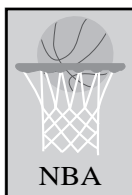
The siege prompted Jackson to suggest that Jordan stop talking to the media on off days. If the questions can be halted, Jackson reasons, maybe the issue will diminish.

But that didn't stop Kerr from taking a shot at an explanation.

"It doesn't make any sense any way you look at it," he said. "There's so many dynamics involved — relationships, politics. It's just a big mess."

"But look at it. The problem is that's everybody is coming into free agency at the same time. So (management) is backed into a corner as well. A lot of people are backed into a corner on this, and that's unfortunate."

Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Kerr and Luc Longley are among 11 members of the Bulls who will be free agents after this season.



Jazz avoid season sweep by beating Trail Blazers

By Associated Press

The Portland Trail Blazers couldn't complete a rare sweep of the Utah Jazz.

After winning their first three games against Utah this season, the Blazers had a chance to become the first team to sweep a series longer than two games from the Jazz since Karl Malone's rookie year in 1985-86.

But Utah didn't cooperate.

Jeff Hornacek scored a season-high 31 points and Malone added 29 as the Jazz defeated the Blazers 98-89 Wednesday night in Salt Lake City.

"This team is a tough matchup for us, that's obvious," Hornacek commented. "They're big and fast, and when they're on, they're tough to stop."

The Jazz (54-18) tied Seattle for the best record in the Western Conference, but the Sonics hold the tiebreaker edge for homecourt advantage in the playoffs.

Damon Stoudamire scored 22 points for the Blazers, who would be the No. 6 seed in the West if the playoffs started today.

Portland played without leading scorer Isaiah Rider, who was serving a one-game suspension for being late to practice, and Blazers center Arvydas Sabonis missed most of the game after bruising his hip in a collision with Malone.

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Philadelphia 112, Washington 91; Atlanta 105, Toronto 91; Cleveland 92, Detroit 90; Boston 98, Orlando 87; and Milwaukee 106, Denver 100.

76ers 112, Wizards 91

Derrick Coleman and Allen Iverson each scored 30 points as Philadelphia dealt another blow to Washington's playoff hopes.

Tracy Murray scored 18 points and Juwan Howard added 17 for the Wizards, who lost their fourth straight and fell 1 1/2 games out of the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Carolina, San Jose victories tighten up races for playoffs

By Associated Press

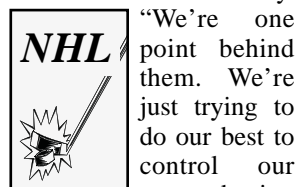
No kidding, the Carolina Hurricanes and San Jose Sharks are right in the thick of the NHL playoff race.

Both teams opened the final month with impressive road victories Wednesday night, the Hurricanes winning 4-0 at New Jersey and the Sharks 3-2 at Pittsburgh.

That left each within one point of the final playoff spot in their conferences — the Hurricanes right behind Ottawa in the East and the Sharks on the verge of catching Edmonton in the West.

"I'm not picking up the paper every morning and

analyzing it to death," Carolina goalie Trevor Kidd said of the playoff chase with the Senators, who were idle Wednesday.



"We're one point behind them. We're just trying to do our best to control our own destiny and give ourselves an opportunity to slide by Ottawa. It will probably come down to who buckles first."

Which also is the case in the West. The race for the final playoff spots became more bunched up with the Sharks' victory, Edmonton's 4-2 loss at Vancouver

and Phoenix's 5-1 victory at Anaheim.

Phoenix tied idle Chicago for sixth with 70 points apiece, while Edmonton held on to the eighth spot with 68 points to 67 for San Jose.

"We're looking at every game like we have to win it," San Jose's Jeff Friesen said. "It's coming down to crunch time, and we need the points."

Elsewhere, it was Buffalo 4, Los Angeles 0; Detroit 2, Colorado 0; St. Louis 6, Toronto 4; Montreal 4, Florida 3; Boston 4, New York Rangers 2; New York Islanders 4, Tampa Bay 0; and Calgary 3, Dallas 1.